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⚡Senators Want Role In Choosing New CIA Deputy

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators, one of them fearing that ''the foxes are now guarding the chicken house at the CIA,'' want President Reagan to consult with them before naming a new deputy director at the intelligence agency.

''This is a watershed event, not simply a resignation, a replacement and life goes on,'' Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said Friday of Adm. Bobby R. Inman's resignation earlier this week as the CIA's No. 2 official.

Lugar, one of Reagan's most loyal congressional supporters and a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, summoned reporters to his office Friday for a rare public statement on intelligence policy. Reflecting concern throughout the committee about the leadership of the CIA under Director William J. Casey, Lugar said members of the Senate panel ''should be heavily involved in the selection process'' before the names of potential successors to Inman emerge in public.

''I'm frankly trying to engender a dialogue and send some signals'' to the White House, Lugar said. ''This is a traumatic occasion, and I say that advisedly.''

Casey's management of the CIA and his past business practices were investigated by the Intelligence Committee last year, when several senators called for his resignation.

The committee ultimately gave Casey the tepid endorsement that he was ''not unfit to serve'' in the post.

''Many of us voted for Casey and Inman as a package,'' Lugar said. ''Casey was important to the president, who had absolute confidence in him. Inman has been our man in a way.''

He specifically said the consultation should take place before Reagan formally sends the Senate a nominee to succeed Inman.

''Lugar is absolutely dead right,'' said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., another member of the committee. ''They better get his message, because with Inman gone, the foxes are now guarding the chicken house at the CIA.''